

ACC

10000 | 120 | 2992

L O's Rep

52 B.L.U

10000/120/2992

L.O.'s Reports

52 B.L.U.

758
767

Oct-Nov. 1944

SUBJECT :- Engr Proj Iss Report No 7.
For Week ending 25 Nov 44.

SECRET

52 Brit Liaison Unit
C.I.F.

29 Nov 44

RE/01/2/13

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (AMIA)
For attention Major Copplesone SCRB

1. TRAINING

(A) Engr Training

(i) 51 Coy

One pl training in Mines and Demolitions; remainder engaged in Road reconstruction PIEDMONT - ALIFE area.

(ii) 3 Coy

(a) One pl completed initial 6-day Bailey programme and has now begun second part of mines and Demolitions.

(b) One pl completed training in Mines and Demolitions and has completed 2 days of initial Bailey programme.

(c) Remainder of Coy training in Mines and Demolitions

(B) Small Arms Training

Slow progress in ILC due to lack of weapons. Training in rifle proceeding concurrently with Bailey and Mine Warfare.

2. STORES

Quantities of stores, mainly non-technical, (e.g. picks, shovels, axes felling etc) now being received, but no unit plant.

3 GENERAL REMARKS

Progress generally has been very satisfactory. ~~Results~~ in Control and organisation of parties by N.C.Cs on Bridging ^{are} improving, but have still not reached a satisfactory standard. The fault is probably due to lack of experience of the equipment and to the fact that N.C.Cs had not done any practical work with Bailey, before training with their men.

1844

1. TRAINING(A) ~~Inf~~ Training(i) 51 Coy

One pl training in Mines and Demolitions; remainder engaged in Road reconstruction FIELDWORK - ALICE area.

(ii) 3 Coy

- (a) One pl completed initial 6-day Bailey programme and has now begun second part of mines and Demolitions.
- (b) One pl completed training in Mines and Demolitions and has completed 2 days of initial Bailey programme.
- (c) Remainder of Coy training in Mines and Demolitions

(B) Small Arms Training

Slow progress in ILMG due to lack of weapons. Training in rifle proceeding concurrently with Bailey and Mine Warfare.

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Quantities of stores, mainly non-technical, (e.g. picks, shovels, axes felling etc) now being received, but no unit plant.

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CID/aa

Clawson
Captain
S.O.R.E.

SUBJECT :- Engr Progress Report No 6
For Week Ending 18 Nov 44

SECRET

52 Brit Liaison Unit
C.A.F.

Nov 44

HE/01/2/11

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (LMAIA)
For attention Major Phillips SCRE 2

1. TRAINING

(a) 51 Coy

Part Training in Mines and Demolitions; part engaged in reconstructing dangerous sections of Rd AIIPE - Route 6, and in constructing diversions.

(b) 3 Coy

(i) No 1 Platoon completed 4 days of 6 day Bailey programme.
(See programme attached my Report No 5)

(ii) Nos 2 and 3 Platoons training in Mines and Demolitions.
Present system is to complete individual training in Lecture Rooms and enclosures, and then to pass Sappers out to practical work on Company minefields as they qualify.

(c) All Arms Training

(i) 94 Officers and senior N.C.Os have been trained by the Engr Bn in Mine Warfare and Offensive Demolitions.

(ii) The Bn has now been asked to train personnel of the Assault Pioneer Pls for Infantry Bn, totalling some 108 men.

(d) General Notes on Training

(i) Small Arms

Training in British weapons being carried out concurrently with Bridging and Mine Warfare. Progress in rifle quite good, but as only one Bren LMG is available in the Bn training is rather slow.

(ii) Bailey.

All ranks appear to be learning to handle equipment very well, but more practice is required in organisation and control of parties by junior N.C.Os. On the whole however, progress has been very satisfactory.

CID/aa

Captain
S.O.R.E.

C. Lamin

(a) 51 Coy

Part Training in Mines and Demolitions; part engaged in reconstructing dangerous sections of Rd ALIFE - Route 6, and in constructing diversions.

(b) 3 Coy

(i) No 1 Platoon completed 4 days of 6 day Bailey programme. (See programme attached my Report No 5)

(ii) Nos 2 and 3 Platoons training in Mines and Demolitions. Present system is to complete individual training in Lecture Rooms and enclosures, and then to pass Sappers out to practical work on Company minefields as they qualify.

(c) All Arms Training

(i) 24 Officers and senior N.C.Os have been trained by the Engr Bn in Mine Warfare and Offensive Demolitions.

(ii) The Bn has now been asked to train personnel of the Assault Pioneer Pls for Infantry Bn, totalling some 108 men.

(d) General Notes on Training

(i) Small Arms

Training in British weapons being carried out concurrently with Bridging and Mine Warfare. Progress in rifle quite good, but as only one Bren LMG is available in the Bn training is rather slow.

(ii) Bailey.

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CID/aa

C. Lammie

Captain
S.O.R.E.

1846

SUBJECT :- Engr. Weekly Progress Report No.5.
For week-ending Nov 11.

SECRET

52 Brit Liaison Unit
C.M.F.

15 Nov 44

RE/01/2/9

Land Forces Sub Comm AC (LRIA)
For attention Major Phillips SORE 2

1. TRAINING.

(a) 51 Coy Training in Mines and Demolition

(b) 3 Coy

- (i) Operai and Artieri D'Arresto Pls. Trg. in Mines and Fd. Wks.
- (ii) No 1 Artieri Pl. Training in Bailey (Copy of general 6 day Bailey programme attached herewith)
- (iii) No 3 Artieri Pl. engaged in reconstruction and reinforcing existing bridges in FIEDIMONTE which were destroyed by recent storms.

2. TRAINING STORES

- (i) Bailey Set, as laid down in AAI letter 2503/5A/RE dated 20 Oct 44, now received.
- (ii) Mk VII exploders and Demolition Test Sets received against G 1098 allotment.
- (iii) No Unit plant received.

3. GENERAL.

Outside practical work held up by extremely adverse weather conditions. Training mainly confined to Lecture Rooms.

CID/AA


Captain
S.O.R.E.

765

GENERAL PROGRAMME - 6 - DAY BAILEY COURSE FOR 51st ENGR. BN.

Day 1

Lectures - Recognition and handling Bailey parts.
Organisation of Bridging parties.
Construct simple bays.

Day 2

Construct 60'0" Double Single Bridge

Day 3

Construct 60'0" Triple Single Bridge

Day 4

Construct 60'0" Double Double

Day 5

Triple Storey Construction -- build number of bays Double Triple

Day 6

Design and Construction Bailey cribs and piers.

NOTES (1) The amount of equipment allotted for training does not permit the building of Bridges stronger than Class 40, being limited by the number of Decking units.

(2) Each platoon to be trained in turn, for 6 days each.

SECRET

SUBJECT :- Engr Weekly Progress Report No.4
For Week - Ending 4 Nov 44.-----

52 Brit Liaison Unit
C.M.F.

Nov 44

RE/01/2/8

Land Forces Sub Com AC (MMLIA)
(For attention Major Phillips)
S.O.R.E.2)

1. TRAINING STATE.

Both Coys training in Mines and Demolitions owing to lack of Bailey equipment.

Part training temporarily suspended due to extremely bad weather, and to the necessity for employing Engrs on reconstruction of bridges in PIEDIMONTE destroyed by storm.

2. TRAINING STORES.

(i) Bailey Following equipment received from 50 BLU :-

- 4 Decking Units
- 2 Ramp Units
- 1 Accessory Unit.

Further Bailey equipment not yet collected from 6 J.S.B.D. CANCELLO, owing to impassability of roads due to storms. Will be collected on 8 Nov if road conditions permit.

(ii) Demolitions - Mines Enough Demolition & 1098 equipment received for training. An assortment of mines and initiators collected from GAETA (ref your message RE 383 3 Nov)

(iii) Unit Plant No Unit Plant yet received.

3. PERSONNEL.

Ten. Beschizza not yet reported this Gruppo (ref your RE/18/1 dated 28 Sep 44) I understand from Ten. Beschizza that he has been ordered by S.M.R.E. to stay at RETD for the purpose of interpreting on Courses for MANIOVA and PICIENTO Gruppi. To date I have had no official notification of the change of arrangements.

4. TRAINING GENERAL

Courses for unit instructors of the Infantry Assault Regt (Guastatori) are being conducted parallel with the training of Engr Coys.

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CID/AA.

703

C. Dami.

Captain
S.O.R.E.

SECRET

Subject :- ENGR. WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT No 3.
FOR WEEK - ENDING 28 OCT 44

52 Brit.Liaison Unit
CMF.

30 Oct 44
RE/01/2/6

HQ MMIA..ROME.
(For attention) Major Phillips
S.O.R.E.2.

1. TRAINING

- (a) Fd.Wks. course for Junior N.C.Os at RETD in progress. Instructors at RETD pleased with progress made by students.
- (b) Officers and N.C.Os Cadre Class in Mine Warfare and Demolition completed.
- (c) Bn.Training programmes altered, as there is not sufficient Bailey equipment to employ a whole Coy at once. Revised general scheme as follows :-

3rd Artieri Coy

1 - 20 Nov....2 Platoons training on Bailey
2 " " in Mines and Fd.Wks.
20 Nov 10 Dec Complete Coy " in Mines " Demolitions

51st Artieri Coy

1 - 20 Nov.. Complete Coy on Mines and Demolitions
20 Nov) 2 Platoons on Bailey
10 Dec) 2 " Mines and Fd.Wks.

In both Coys time to be given to Weapon Training during training on Bailey and Mines.

2. TRAINING EQUIPMENT

- (1) BAILEY Further 16 Panel units; 2 Erection Gear Sets released from E.S.B.D.
- (2) UNIT PLANT ^{No} the unit plant received.
- (3) DEMOLITION No demolition equipment yet received, but early releases have been obtained and equipment will be collected as soon as available. Meantime equipment has been borrowed from S.M.E. with exceptions of Compressor truck.

1. TRAINING

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3. OFFICERS

Attached is nominal roll of Officers of rank of Captain and senior, with preliminary remarks

C.I. Davies
Captain
(C.I. Davies)
S.O.R.E.

CONFIDENTIALNOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS1. Maggiore E. VESCOVINI - Bn. Comd 51 Genio Bn.

Regular Engineer Officer completed Staff Course and used to be G.I. 209 Infantry Coastal Division before being appointed Engineer Comd., this Gruppo.

Good Commander and first class engineer with progressive ideas in training insists on realism and has obtained permission from Div. Comd. to use completely live mines etc on final training scheme.

Popular with troops, and appears to know his N.C.Os.

2. Capitano C. MARCHETTI (Adjut)

Quite good adjutant. Efficient and has ^{good} knowledge of Staff work.

3. Capitano E. SALENI - O.C. 3 Artieri Coy.

Regular Officer

4. Capitano S. CALACICCHE - O.C. 51 Artieri Coy.

Regular Officer

5. Capitano GARDINI - F.E.14

Sound Engineer. Quietly efficient.

761

Subject:- ENGR. WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORT No 2.
FOR WEEK - ENDING 21 OCT 44

52 Brit. Liaison Unit
CWF.

20 Oct 44

RE/01/2/3

HQ MMIA...ROME.
(For attention) Major Phillips
S.O.R.E.2



1. TRAINING.

(a) N.C.Os Cadre Class in Mine Warfare continues. Expected to have trained Cadre of 30-40 N.C.Os by 28 Oct., full training to start on 1 Nov., when one Coy will start on Bailey, remaining Coy on Demolitions and Mine Warfare. Change over 14 Nov and completed by 30 Nov.

(b) No training explosives yet released. 7 Day Demolition Course proposed for training Cadre of Officers and N.C.Os in Demolition and Assault Demolitions. Programme will be forwarded as early as possible.

(c) Cadre of 3 Officers and 6 O.Rs already trained by Inf, Instructors in Br.Small Arms. Training of whole BN. will commence on 28 Oct or 1 Nov. time being allotted each day from Mine Warfare and Bailey Training.

(d) No Unit equipment yet received, so no training in Unit Field Plant Maintenance yet started.

General Remarks on Training

Cmdr.Engr.Bn. agrees with me that All Platoons in both Coys should be completely trained in both Mine Warfare and Bridging to provide an immediate operational reserve to replace any Battle Casualties, and that the Artieri d'Arresto Platoon should specialise as little as possible. I propose also to train Officers and possibly Senior N.C.Os in rapid Classification of Bridges (existing) in view of their possible role as Garrison Tps, or against their possible employment in an advance. For this purpose I am having a short pamphlet on Classification of Bridges translated into Italian and issued to all Officers in Bn.

2. PERSONNEL

(i) Coy Strengths and Reinforcements

Both Coys now up to full strength in numbers, but

760

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2. PERSONNEL

(i) Coy Strengths and Reinforcements

Both Coys now up to full strength in numbers, but are still deficient in tradesmen. 5% reinforcements are already with the Bn.

(ii) Ref Appx 'A' to your RE 18/1 dated 28 Sept. Sotto Tenente CECHEZZO has not yet arrived at this Group from CREMONA, in view of the fact that he has had considerable experience of Bailey and was the best student allotted to LEGNANO from the SME Bailey Course, he is urgently needed here to assist in preparing for Bailey Training.

- 2 -

3. OFFICERS - CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

I am at present making notes but as I have not yet seen the Officers working with their men to any extent, I consider it would be a little premature to submit my opinions at this point. I will forward an interim report in the course of the next week.

C. I. Davies
Captain
(C.I. Davies)
S.O.R.E.

CID/AA

759

SUBJECT: -Engr. Progress Report for week-ending 13 Oct 44

52 Brit. Liaison Unit
CMF.

RE/01/2

13 Oct 44

RE

MMIA. ROME.

(For attention) Major R. Phillips
S.O.R.E.2.

1515

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1. Training of unit instructors partly completed.
Commander Italian Engrs., not yet entirely confident of junior
N.C.Os ability to instruct so have extended training of N.C.Os.
 2. Divisional Commander has laid down training
programme for ENgr. Bn., which is at present under discussion.
 3. NO unit equipment has yet been received but small
Nos of certain types of mines have been received from S.M.E.
and releases authorised for 200 T.M. 43, 200 Holzmine 42 and
200 ZZ 42.

Captain
(C.I. Davies)
S.O.R.E.

758

1858